

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1           1. A spare tire holder for a vehicle such as a pickup truck  
2 having a tailgate and having a rear mounted hitch receiver  
3 comprising:

4           an upright portion comprising:

5                 a horizontally disposed hitch receiver insert member  
6 having a front insert end and a rear outer end; and

7                 a vertically disposed channel member having a front wall  
8 and opposing side walls, an upper end and a lower end, and  
9 being connected perpendicular to said outer end of said insert  
10 portion at said lower end thereof;

11                         said channel member defining a horizontally aligned  
12 pivot bores in said opposing side walls and spaced upward  
13 from said insert member;

14                         said channel member defining horizontally aligned  
15 securing bores in said opposing side walls and spaced  
16 upward from said pivot bores;

17                         said channel member being of such length that when  
18 said insert member is inserted in said hitch receiver,  
19 said upper end is spaced below the pickup tailgate;

20           a pivoting portion comprising:

21                 a vertical member having a rectangular cross section  
22 having and having an upper end and a curved lower end;

23           said vertical member being so sized and configured  
24           as to fit between said opposing sides of said upright  
25           portion channel member;

26           said vertical member defining a horizontally  
27           disposed pivot bore spaced above said curved lower end;

28           said vertical member defining a horizontally  
29           disposed securing bore spaced above said pivot bore;

30           a horizontally disposed support arm having a front  
31           end and a rear end, said rear end being connected  
32           perpendicular to said vertical member and spaced above  
33           said securing bore;

34           a vertically disposed spare tire mounting plate  
35           having a front side and a rear side, said rear side  
36           having a central portion, said central portion being  
37           connected perpendicular to said rear end of said support,  
38           said vertically disposed mounting plate having a  
39           plurality of lugs extending rearward from said rear side  
40           and so arranged as to receive corresponding lug bores of  
41           a spare tire rim;

42           said support arm being of such a length as to  
43           provide clearance between a spare tire mounted on said  
44           mounting plate and said pivoting portion vertical member;

45           a pivot bolt extending through said pivot bores of said  
46           upright portion vertical channel member and said pivot bores of  
47           said pivoting portion vertical member;

48        said lower curved end of said vertical channel member being so  
49        configured as to allow said pivoting portion vertical member to  
50        rotate toward the rear to a horizontal position;

51        said securing bores of said channel member and said pivoting  
52        portion vertical member being so positioned as to be aligned to  
53        receive a securing pin; and

54        a securing pin removably mounted within said securing bores of  
55        said vertical channel member and said pivoting portion vertical  
56        member

57        whereby, upon removal of said securing pin from said securing  
58        bores, said pivoting portion of said spare tire holder may be  
59        rotated along with the spare tire to the rear to a horizontal  
60        position thus providing clearance for the lowering of the tailgate  
61        of the pickup truck to be lowered from a vertical closed position  
62        to a horizontal open position.

1        2.    The spare tire holder of claim 1, wherein said lower  
2        curved end of said pivoting portion vertical member is so  
3        configured as to interfere with said vertical channel member front  
4        wall at a point where said pivoting portion vertical member is  
5        rotated to a horizontal position, thus maintaining said pivoting  
6        portion vertical member and the attached spare tire at a horizontal  
7        position.

1           3. A spare tire holder for a vehicle such as a pickup truck  
2 having a tailgate and having a rear mounted hitch receiver  
3 comprising:

4           as vertical member having a hitch receiving member for  
5 mounting on the rear of a vehicle; and

6           a pivoting member pivotally attached to said vertical member  
7 at a first end thereof;

8           said pivoting member having a spare tire mounting plate  
9 attached at a second end thereof;

10          whereby said pivoting member may be rotated between a vertical  
11 position rearward to a horizontal position so as to provide  
12 clearance for the opening of the pickup truck tailgate from a  
13 vertical closed position to a horizontal open position.